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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,101	11/14/2001	Seiji Tanizawa	450100-4830.1	7810

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EXAMINER

ONUAKU, CHRISTOPHER O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2621

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,101

Applicant(s)

TANIZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher Onuaku

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/14/01.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Degen et al (US 5,386,493).

Regarding claim 19, Degen et al disclose a computer implemented apparatus for modifying the playback rate of a previously stored audio and voice data file stored within a computer system without altering the pitch of the audio data file as originally stored, comprising:

a) storing means for storing audio data to be reproduced (see Fig.1; data storage device 104; col.5, line 60 to col.6, line 14);

b) synthesizing means for synthesizing a plurality of channels of the audio data (see col.9, lines 29-48), here segments of the audio tape are combined, during the filtering process, for output to the sound processing hardware 108;

c) changing means for changing the reproduction speed of the audio data without affecting an interval thereof (see col.15, lines 6-25);

d) supplying means for supplying the audio data synthesized by the synthesizing means and the audio data whose reproduction speed is changed by the changing means to arbitrary output channel, wherein the changing means changes the reproduction speed of the audio data without changing the pitch (see col.9, line 5 to col.10, line 30; and col.15, lines 6-65).

Regarding claim 20, the claimed limitations of claim 20 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 19 above.

Regarding claim 21, the claimed limitations of claim 21 are accommodated in the discussions of claim 19 above, including the claimed distribution medium (see Fig.1).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ikeda (US 5,805,761) teaches a video record and reproduce system that makes it easy to record both mixed audio signals combining original reproduced audio signals and singer's audio signals and video signals of singer's images.

Sturges et al (US 5,761,346) teach surround sound capabilities within a personal computer system having a stereo audio circuit by routing left and right audio channels through the audio circuit to a pair of stereo speakers and routing at least one surround

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sound channel through a universal bus controller or other isochronous device, to at least one additional speaker.

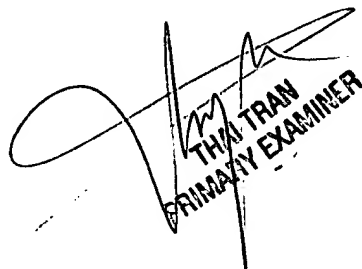
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on 571-272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


COO

4/14/06


THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER